

Westminster Council on Aging

April 2021 Newsletter

69 West Main Street, P. O. Box 212, Westminster, MA 01473



978-874-7402



*Happy Birthday
To All Seniors
Celebrating
In April!*



*~ For Peeps' sake, have a
Very
Happy
Easter!*



DRIVE-THRU HAM DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 9 / 11:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM
WESTMINSTER SENIOR CENTER

Hosted by the Westminster Council on Aging
Served by Westminster Police Department Volunteers

➡ **Signup Required by Calling 978-874-7402**
Limited Servings ~ Please Call Early to Reserve!

Complimentary Meal. Donations Welcome.

DRIVE-THRU ICE CREAM CONE DAY!

TUESDAY, APRIL 13 / 1:00 - 2:00 PM
WESTMINSTER SENIOR CENTER

HOSTED BY MARYANN MELANSON
LIFE CARE CENTERS OF AMERICA

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 6: 978-874-7402



Elizabeth Kalmansson, Attorney at Law

Elder Law | Wills | Trusts | MassHealth Planning & Applications

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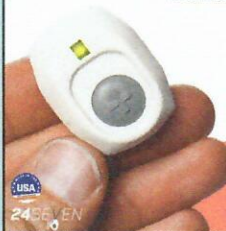


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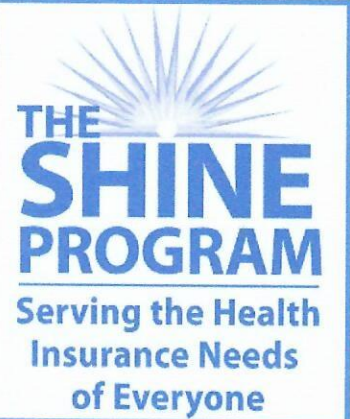
Westminster COA, Westminster 03-1136

The Westminster Council on Aging Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13, 11:30 am at the Westminster Senior Center. This meeting is open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

NEWS FROM SHINE

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH MEDICARE COSTS?

MassHealth Buy-In Program, also called Medicare Savings Program, will pay for the Part B monthly premium, \$148.50 per month. These programs may also help pay some of your out-of-pocket costs of Medicare.



The Buy-In Programs can also help get Medicare Part B for people who only have Medicare Part A.

If you are in a Buy-In Program, you will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help Program, through Social Security, which can help with pharmacy costs.

The information below is the financial eligibility for April 2021 -

	<u>Monthly Gross Income</u>	<u>Assets (i.e., Savings Account)</u>
Individual	\$1,771	\$15,940
Couple	\$2,396	\$23,920

If you feel you may be eligible under these new income guidelines, feel free to call the SHINE Program for more information. The SHINE Program (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is federally funded and state administered through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Program annually certifies over 700 counselors statewide that provide unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects Medicare, related private insurance products, and financial assistance programs. To reach the Central Mass SHINE Program, phone 508-422-9931, email info@shinema.org. For other regions, call 1-800-243-4636 and wait for the SHINE prompt.

Visit us at our Central Mass Website www.shinema.org for useful information and applications for various programs.



Please Note ~

The Westminster Senior Center will be closed on Monday, April 19, in observance of Patriots' Day.

Easter Wishes

*Oh! What a beautiful morning!
We've just dropped in to say,
We hope you have a beautiful,
And wonderful Easter Day!*

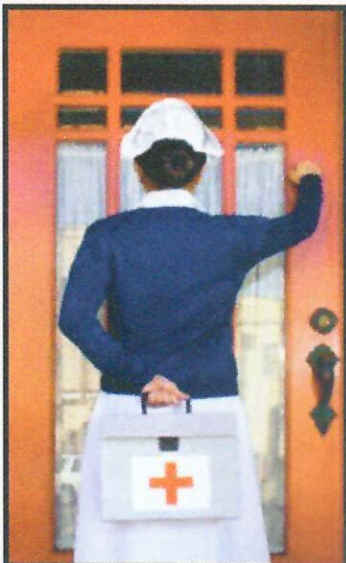
*Flowers are blooming everywhere,
Bird songs are in the air.
Spring is unfolding her treasures,
And wants us all to share.*

*Easter gives hope for tomorrow,
As after the winter comes spring.
Our hearts can be filled with gladness,
As hearts rejoice and sing!*



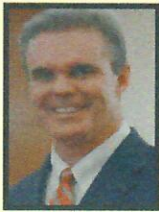
**HAPPY EASTER TO ALL
OUR SENIOR FRIENDS!
HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!**

**SUE FISHER, DIRECTOR
& SENIOR CENTER STAFF**



Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is starting a vaccination program for the homebound to receive COVID-19 vaccines. If you or a family member is homebound, you can enroll in the State program and the State will vaccinate.

Please call the Westminster Board of Health at 978-874-7409 to see if you or a family member may qualify.



Worcester County District Attorney's Office
Joseph D. Early, Jr.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEF: PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM PHONE SCAMS

The phone is the top way scammers contact would-be victims. Many phone scams involve COVID. To keep yourself safe from scammers, don't rely on caller ID. Scammers are able to spoof calls, falsifying information to make incoming calls appear to be from a local number. It's better to use voicemail when screening calls from an unknown number.

To help protect yourself from phone scams, I am including some suggestions you may find helpful.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THIEVES AND SCAMMERS!

ONLY ANSWER CALLS IF YOU KNOW THE CALLER — Use your voicemail and don't trust the caller ID.

MAKE PHONE CALLS ONLY TO NUMBERS YOU INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY — If you see the number in a pop-up message, it is probably a scam!

JUST HANG UP IF...

- You are asked to WIRE MONEY OR BUY A PREPAID CARD.
- You are told YOU HAVE WON A PRIZE or a gift, but you need to pay fees or taxes first. There is NO National Lottery.
- You are told to KEEP THE CALL A SECRET.
- You are asked to PRESS A NUMBER TO "OPT OUT" - this will notify scammers your number is active, and they will keep calling.
- You are asked to VISIT WEBSITES or download software.
- You are asked for usernames, PASSWORDS, account numbers, or your home address.
- You are told THE OFFER IS ONLY GOOD FOR TODAY.
- You answer a call and hear AN UNNATURALLY LONG PAUSE followed by a prerecorded message.

REALLY, JUST HANG UP!

Report phone scams to www.ftc.gov or call 1-877-382-4357

Reporting helps catch scammers.

For more information, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division Hotline at 1-617-727-8400

"Music is Love" Variety Show By Dawn Kelley & Dick Miller

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Wednesday, April 14 ~ 1:00-2:00 pm
Westminster Senior Center



COMMUNITY LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MASS (FREE): 978-516-5155

www.communitylegal.org / 515 Main St, 3rd Floor, Fitchburg

ELDER HELPLINE: 800-243-4636 / TDD/TTY 800-872-0166

Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS: 800-922-2275

Report Elder Abuse / Open 7 Days a Week, 24 Hours a Day



FUEL ASSISTANCE: Salvation Army 978-342-9407; New England Farm Worker's Council, 473 Main St, 3rd Floor, Fitchburg 978-342-4520

MASSOPTIONS: 844-422-6277 www.MassOptions.org / Free Referral Service

MOC MEALS ON WHEELS: 978-345-8501 Home Delivered Meals

MONTACHUSETT HOME CARE: 978-537-7411 / 800-734-7312 Community Resources

HEART TO HOME MEALS: 508-658-3000 HeartToHomeMeals.com / Meal Delivery Service

Happy Easter

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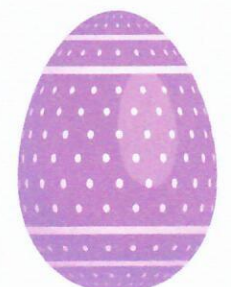
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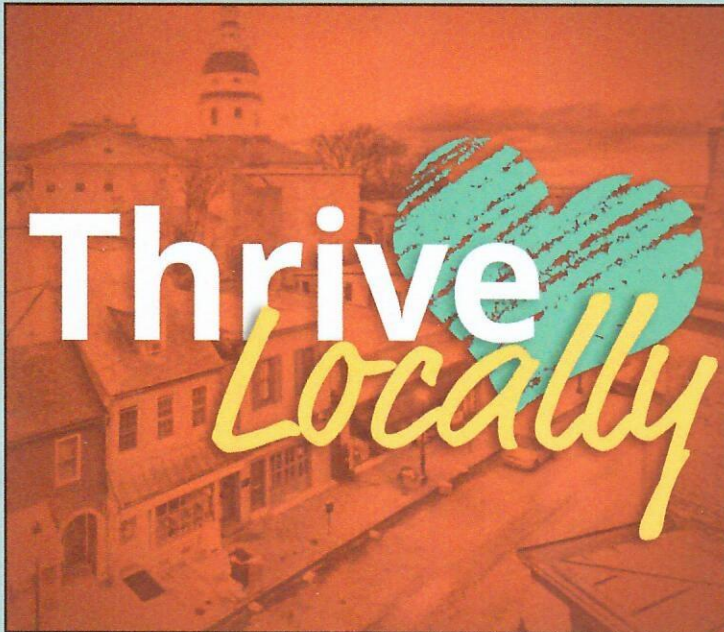
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